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CY 2001 Issue 1



Navelsf newsletter

Chief Of Staff Corner

By: Capt Rob Hendrickson

The message is out announcing the Annual NAVELSF Staff Selection Board. The packages are due to the staff by May 15, 2001. We are advertising 4 Captain billets, 3 Commander billets and 2 Lieutenant Commander billets. If you have not seen the NAVELSF message announcing its staff billets, please call me at (256) 245-9061 or call Capt (Sel) Billy Dodson at (800) 453-1621 ext. 421. This will be my last year on staff. It has been a great six years and I hate to leave this outstanding Force. However, all good things must come to an end. My billet would be a great job for one of you. Please Apply!!

Also, mark your calendar for the NAVELSF CO/CMC Workshop. The dates are November 9 thru 11, 2001. In addition to inviting Supply Officers this year, Training Officers too will be invited. The location will be the Marriott in Williamsburg. More information will follow in our upcoming new letters.

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From the desk of the Deputy Commander

By: Capt D. D. Kline

I am sure personnel throughout the NAVELSF often wonder, "What is the NAVELSF headquarters staff doing for me today?" Let me answer that question with a brief snapshot of a few key issues currently being worked by the staff that will have a direct impact on you in the future. Our N1 has streamlined the awards process to improve the quantity, quality and timeliness of awards. N1 has also continued to push the reorganization implementation along and hopefully, by the time you read this, good unit RUADs are on the streets. N1 is now focusing efforts on staffing Full Time Support (FTS) personnel in the NSSBs. N3 is doing a great job expanding our fleet support base through a variety of new, challenging exercises and fleet support opportunities. We will be supporting two U. S. Naval Forces Central Command exercises including a Receipt, Staging, Onward Integration (RSOI) event and a tent camp support event. We have found a new customer in the Military Sealift Command (MSC) who wants us to support an operation in Greenland and provide ordnance handling support in the Mediterranean. N3 is also in the early stages of coordinating ordnance handling contributory support with CONUS Weapons Stations. N5 continues their superb marketing campaign and is representing the NAVELSF in planning conferences involving future exercise support to the Fleet CINCs and NATO. The N4 is in the final steps of redefining the new NAVELSF Table of Allowance (TOA) based on reorganization changes which will provide us the tools and equipment we need in both peacetime and mobilization. N4 has also been busy with the warehousing of the new, state of the art CBR individual protective suits that we recently received. N4 has done a fine job conducting logistics assist visits at various battalion headquarters sites. These successful visits are performed specifically to ensure logistics readiness and provide training where needed. N4 also has responsibility for coordinating the planning efforts for the construction of the new NAVELSF headquarters building scheduled for construction in FY 02. N7 is gearing up for the FY 01 Operational Readiness Assessment cycle and is liasoning with NAVCHAPGRU to improve training scenarios and enhance training in two critical areas- Force Protection and Chemical, Biological, Radiological (CBR) readiness. The SORTS reporting program has always been a high visibility program (the Fleet monitors our readiness) that

Deputy Commander (cont.)

has historically been complex and difficult to manage. N7 is simplifying the process of reporting readiness information which all battalions should be seeing very soon. N7 is overseeing the development of an automated Command Post Exercise (CPX) which is nearing field implementation. This excellent program should really improve command and control training. N8 is taking a strategic look at the NAVELSF of the future including an analysis of high technology equipment that could potentially enhance mission performance. So you can see, the staff has several exciting initiatives underway on a lot of fronts. And, in the midst of all this, we are preparing for a command inspection by the COMNAVRESFOR Inspector General early this summer. Let me leave you with two thoughts. One keep up the great communication. As I mentioned at the Commanding Officer/ Senior Enlisted Leadership conference in Williamsburg in November, good communication takes effort. Let's make the effort together. We are only as successful as our ability to communicate. Finally, be safe in all you do at home, work and during Navy related activities. D. D. Kline, CAPT, SC, USNR Deputy Commander

RUAD Update from N-15

by: Capt Sue Walsh

We are finally into the final step of the reorganization. In this step, TFMMS changes (billet changes) will occur and your RUADS will be restructured. During this process you may see all the billets drop off the RUAD. Shortly after the old structure has dropped off, the new RUAD should appear. The new RUAD should be identical to your battalion spreadsheet that you have been working off of. RUICs will stay the same. Most AUICs will change. All units will want to audit their new RUAD against the battalion spreadsheet. Any discrepancies found during your audit should be emailed to CAPT Walsh. A few battalions have expressed an interest in moving companies due to manning issues. If you have one of these battalions NAVELSF is planning on putting together a consolidated list of changes in July. Changes need to be submitted to CAPT. Sue Walsh

What are RA/RX Billets?

RA billets are funded billets; RX billets are unfunded billets. Currently both types of billet may appear on a RUAD. NAVELSF billets are all RA (funded) billets.

Force Ombudsman

Dear NAVELSF Families,

We have a new Force Ombudsman. She recently completed the ombudsman training in New Orleans. This is her first opportunity serving as an ombudsman and she is looking forward to it.

As many of you probably already know, ombudsmen are available to assist Navy families. They act as a liaison between the command and families, and we communicate information about command and community resources to families.

Please feel free to utilize our ombudsman when appropriate. Your questions, comments, complaints, concerns, etc. will all be held in the strictest confidence, within the guidelines defined in OPNAVINST 1750.1 (series) The Navy Family Ombudsman instruction. You may contact your chain of command to get further details.



The new RUAD should be identical to your battalion spreadsheet. Any discrepancies found during your audit of the new RUAD should be emailed to CAPT Walsh.

Training Officer Workshop

The N7 Staff is planning a one-day NAVELSF Training Officers Workshop to be held on Friday, May 4, 2001 in conjunction with the Naval Reserve Supply Community Workshop in Philadelphia, PA. The agenda is still being developed, but will include training and discussion on SORTS reporting, CART 1 reporting, and course quota requests. N7 POC for questions and discussion topics is CDR Kathryn Janosco.

Training Department – N7 Supports NAVELSF Units

The mission of the code N7 Readiness department is to provide Readiness Assessment assistance and training to two Supply Support Battalions, and twelve Navy Cargo Handling Battalions assigned to NAVELSF. N7 provides assistance with unit manning issues, conducts assist visits, addresses and responds to unit specific issues as well as NAVELSF issues. Readiness Officers (RO's) have the tracking and monitoring responsibilities of all units, and pride themselves on working shoulder to shoulder to build a versatile and skilled team in support of the units. Changes over this past year include CAPT Ron MacLaren as the new Department Head, fleetling up from the Assistant Department Head; LCDR Bob Casagrand as Readiness Officer for NCHB's 3,5,6,14 and for Fuels Companies (ABF1.) Steve Quintero, assists LCDR Casagrand. CDR Allan Turner is Readiness Officer for NCHB's 4, 11, 12 and 13; LCDR Mike Ulmer is Assistant Readiness Officer for the both NSSB's covering the areas of Physical Distribution, Personal Services, Mail Companies, and Tent Camp. LCDR Mark Mellblom is Assistance Readiness Officer for both NSSB's covering the SLIC's; ETC Waffird will work with Mark. Continuing from last year are CDR Rob Beck as active duty staff member Code N7B. CDR Gary Mack is NSSB Readiness Officer. CWO2 Gene Hoffman is assistant to LCDR Mike Ulmer. IT1 Waxman will assist LCDR Mellblom. BMC Kevin Joe is Technical Advisor for NCHB's.

N3 Update

by: CDR Kruml

Safety. BMC Pepin is the COMNAVELSF Safety Officer. So that he can accurately identify any trends, it is essential that he be notified of any and all safety mishaps involving NAVELSF personnel missing 5 days or more of work due to a mishap. Unit Safety Representatives can contact Chief Pepin for information on safety related reports and requirements.

Short Notice Recall Bill. Feel free to continue to update those personnel in your units who are available for "short notice" operations. Although passports are rarely required for our people going overseas, it's a good idea to have one. Personnel who have said they are available for a "short notice" recall should already have or be in the process of obtaining a passport.

Annual Training. NAVELSF personnel must receive a Billet Control Number (BCN) from Chief Pepin when applying for Annual Training (AT) regardless of where AT will be performed.

Annual Training (AT) Orders to Bahrain. All AT orders for personnel traveling to Bahrain need to be coordinated through Chief Pepin. He will assign a BCN for the AT. Due to strict force protection measures, all reserve personnel must provide flight arrival information to Chief Pepin so the RLO in Bahrain can be notified and the member (s) can be properly met at the airport. In addition, personnel on orders to Bahrain must submit a country clearance message at least 30 days in advance of their arrival dates. Naval Reserve Centers are required to submit the message, but it is up to the Unit Commanding Officers to ensure that this is accomplished. Rental cars are authorized for orders to Bahrain. Shuttle bus service from some of the major hotels is no longer authorized due to force protection reasons. Questions on Bahrain AT orders requirements can be addressed to Chief Pepin or CDR Kruml.

Additional AT days. Commander, Naval Surface Reserve Force has authorized additional AT days until further notice. Anyone interested in doing multiple ATs this year should contact Chief Pepin immediately. There are plenty of opportunities to support COMFAIRMED and CTF-53 in Bahrain.

Force Master Chief's Corner

I would first like to congratulate all of our Sailors who were advanced during the December advancement examination cycle. The force had 60 Sailors advance. This was a 15 percent increase over the September cycle. BZ to all of you, and also to your leadership who fine tuned your training time and enabled you to get the most out of a drill weekend. I encourage you to continue at this pace, and strive for even better results for the next cycle.

Additionally, I would like to address one of the issues which was discussed during our November CO/CMC Conference. What is the probability of developing an ELSF Force Insignia for wear on our CUU's? We have researched and discussed this issue in great detail here at the Staff. We felt if approved, this would significantly boost morale, esprit de corps and retention within the Force. Currently, we have developed the design and are in the process of requesting approval through our Chain of Command. Changing Uniform Regulations through the CNO's Uniform Board is no easy task, but I feel we are on the right track and hopefully we will hear something in the next few months.

Finally, I would like to share a few items of interest I noted from a report I received from the Secretary of Defense's "First Senior Enlisted Advisors Forum." Seventy-nine E-9's and sixty of their spouses were in attendance. Active, Reserve and National Guard representatives from every enlisted community were in attendance. The hottest topics concerning Reservists were Quality of Life and Pay. The first issue was Retirement Pay. The DOD has tasked the Ninth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation Board (QRMC) to review the issue of whether the Reserve retirement system should be amended to allow for receipt of Reserve retired pay prior to reaching age 60. The QRMC has been tasked with examining a number of alternatives to the current system and consider recommendations for change. The second issue was Special and Incentive Pays. Reservists possessing the required duty skills and qualifications are authorized such pays while performing part-time duties at a rate of 1/30 of the compensation authorized for active duty members for each day of duty. This situation sometimes results in reservists receiving significantly less special or incentive pay in a month than Active members, even though the Reservists have the same skills, maintain the same proficiency and perform equal duties. The QRMC has been tasked to review the appropriateness and consistency of the rules that govern certain special and incentive pays for Reserve members. The final issue was Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). Active members receive a housing allowance that is structured for the local housing market for every day they are on active duty. Reservists receive a flat rate housing allowance, or BAH-II, that is equivalent to the former Basic Allowance for Quarters, for any active duty period of less than 140 days. Since Desert Storm, Reserve members are serving longer periods on active duty, which means relying for greater periods on military pay and allowances. Thus, Reserve members living in high cost areas may incur an immediate shortfall when ordered to active duty, based on the difference between civilian and military income. The QRMB is reviewing this issue in light of the fact that Reservists continue to incur housing costs, just like Active members, regardless of the length of their active duty. As soon as the QRMC Board results are published I'll get the word out. On a final note, stay healthy and safe out there in all that you do at home and work.

ENCM(SW) Bob Damico
COMNAVELSF
Command Master Chief